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09/986,168	11/07/2001	Sandra S. Webb	BS00-340	4958
28970	7590	12/15/2005	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP 1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD MCLEAN, VA 22102			BETIT, JACOB F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2164	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/986,168

Applicant(s)

WEBB ET AL.

Examiner

Jacob F. Betit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

  
**SAM RIMELL**  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Remarks***

1. In response to communications filed on 29 September 2005, claims 1 and 20 are amended per applicant's request. Claims 1-21, 23-45 are presently pending in the application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-21, 23-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility. Claims 1-21 and 23-45 do not recite any specific, substantial, or credible utility. The claims evolve transferring data from a display to a first database, from a first database to a display, from a display to a second database, and in some instances from a second database to a third database. Some claims don't include a third database at all, and others include a third database but do not include transferring data to it. The claims are found to lack utility because there is no claimed useful result deriving from the movement of the data as claimed in the independent claims.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 14-21 and 23-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. patent No. 5,815,657) in view of Lefkowitz (U.S. application publication No 2001/0037250 A1).

As to claim 14, Williams et al. teaches a method for database registration, the method comprising:

receiving a user identification of a user via a first user input field of a graphical user interface of a computer of a first information system (see column 20, line 60 through column 21, line 20);

sending a query to a first database of the first information system, the query based at least in part on the user identification (see column 19, lines 20-40, where it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a query would be used to retrieve the user data of the selected user after a password was entered);

receiving a first data value from the first database, the first data value being associated with the user for purpose of identifying the user and being displayed via a display field of the graphical user interface (see column 12, lines 18-40); and

prompting for and receiving a second data value via a second user input field of the graphical user interface of the computer, the second data value being associated with the user for purposes of electronic procurement authorization (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25).

Williams et al. does not teach

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(a) storing from the display field and the first and second input fields of the graphical user interface the user identification, the first data value, and the second data value in a second database of the first information system such that the user identification, the first data value, and the second data value are stored within the second database concurrently and persistently, the second database being different from the first database;

(b) validating the second data value;

(c) sending the validated second data value and the first data value to a third database, the third database being different from the first database and the second database, the third database being part of a second information system, the second information system being different from the first information system.

Lefkowitz teaches (a) see paragraph 0046; (b) see paragraph 0055; (b) see paragraph 0055, where it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that both the credit card and the address would be sent to a credit card server to authorize a payment. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid charged to the customers.

As to claim 15, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising:  
receiving purchasing card information from the first computer (see Williams et al., column 16, lines 44-64); and

storing the purchasing card information in the second database (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0046).

As to claim 16, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising validating the purchasing card information (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0055).

As to claim 17, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the purchasing card information includes a purchasing card number and an identification of a purchasing card owner (see Williams et al., figure 33).

As to claim 18, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the purchasing card owner is different from the user (see Williams et al., column 14, line 62 through column 15, line 11 and see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 55, where it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the owner of a purchasing card is the issuing bank).

As to claim 19, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising sending a purchasing card validation query to the owner of the purchasing card, the purchasing card validation query including at least in part an identification of the user (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0055).

As to claim 20, Williams et al. teaches a system for database registration, the system comprising:

a first server including database registration instructions (see column 20, line 60 through

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column 21, line 20);

a first database and one or more related databases coupled to the first server, the first database to store at least in part a first data value associated with a user (see figure 1B, reference number 158 and see column 9, lines 30-40, where it is inherent that the internet has more than one database and the databases would be related in the fact that they both would be on the internet);

a computer coupled to the first server, the computer providing a first graphical user interface to receive a second data value associated with the user for purposes of electronic procurement authorization via a second input field of the first graphical user interface (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25), the computer to receive the first data value from the first database for purposes of identifying the user and display the first data value via a display field of the graphical user interface in response to receiving a user identifier via a first input field of the graphical user interface (see column 12, lines 18-40),

wherein the computer allows the user to enter one or more additional data values via one or more additional input fields of the first graphical user interface (see figures 17, reference numbers 1750, 1760, 1780, 1782, 1784, 1786, figure 18, reference numbers 1810, 1820, 1830, 1850, 1860, 1840, figure 20, reference number 2030, figure 21, reference number 2160, 2170, 2150 and figure 23, wherein further a portion of the graphical user interface is a Java applet including one or more Active Server Pages supporting a plurality of panel indicators (see column 4, line 61 through column 5, line 4); and

Williams et al. does not teach

(a) a second database and one or more related database coupled to the computer, the

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second database to receive the first data value, the second data value and the additional data values from the display field, the second input field and the one or more additional input fields of the graphical user interface of the computer, the second database to store the first data value, the second data value and the additional data values such that the first data value from the first database and the second data value are contained within the second database concurrently and persistently,

(b) wherein further the computer provides a second graphical user interface to receive parameters regarding uploading the first data value and second data value and the additional data values to the second database.

Lefkowitz teaches (a) see paragraph 0044 and paragraph 0046, where it is inherent that the internet has more than one database and the databases would be related in the fact that they both would be on the internet and (b) see paragraphs 0049-0050. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid charged to the customers.

As to claim 21, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein:

the first server includes a first server processor and a first server memory, the first server memory including a plurality of instructions configured to be executed by the server, the plurality of instructions configured to be executed by the server including the database registration instructions; and the computer includes a processor and a memory, the memory



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including a plurality of instructions configured to be executed by the processor, the plurality of instructions configured to be executed by the processor including at least a portion of the database registration instructions, the at least a portion of the database registration instructions being received from the first server (see Williams et al., column 4, line 35 through column 5, line 18).

As to claim 23, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the first data value associated with the user includes a validated first data value associated with the user (see column 12, lines 18-40).

As to claim 24, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein:  
the computer is to receive purchasing card information(see Williams et al., column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25); and  
the second database is to store the received purchasing card information (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0046).

As to claim 25, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein:  
the computer is to receive purchasing card information (see Williams et al., column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25);  
the second database is to store the purchasing card information (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0046); and

the database registration instructions include instructions to validate the purchasing card information (see Lefkowitz paragraph 0055).

As to claim 26, Williams et al. teaches a system for database registration, the system comprising:

- a first server of a first information system, the first server including database registration instructions and user data feed instructions (see column 20, line 60 through column 21, line 20);

- a first database of the first information system, the first database coupled to the first server, the first database to store at least in part a first data value associated with a user (see figure 1B, reference number 158); and

- a computer of the first information system, the computer coupled to the first server, the computer providing a graphical user interface to receive a second data value associated with the user for purposes of electronic procurement authorization via a second input field of the graphical user interface (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25), the computer to receive the first data value from the first database for purposes of identifying the user and display the first data value via a display field of the graphical user interface in response to receiving a user ID entered via a first input field of the graphical user interface (see column 12, line 18-40).

Williams et al. does not teach

- (a) a second database of the first information system, the second database coupled to the computer, the second database to receive the first data value and the second data value from the display field and the second input field of the graphical user interface of the computer, the

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second database to store the first data value and the second data value such that the first data value from the first database and the second data value are contained within the second database concurrently and persistently;

(b) a second server coupled to the first server, the second server being part of a second information system, the second server including user data upload instructions; and a third database coupled to the second server, the third database being part of the second information system.

Lefkowitz teaches (a) see paragraph 0046; (b) see paragraph 0055. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid charged to the customers.

As to claim 27, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the user data feed instructions include instructions to selectively send data from the second database to the third database (see Lefkowitz paragraph 0055).

As to claim 28, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the second database is to store a third data value and a fourth data value, the third data value and the fourth data value being associated with the user, the third data value and the fourth data value being received from one of the computer and the first database (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0046).

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As to claim 29, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein user data feed instructions include instructions to selectively send at least one of and less than all of the first data value, the second data value, the third data value, and the fourth data value to the third database (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0055).

As to claim 30, Williams et al. teaches a system for database registration, the system comprising:

means for receiving a user identifier of a user via a first input field of a graphical user interface (see column 20, line 60 through column 21 line 20);

means for sending a query to a first database based at least in part on the user identifier (see column 19, lines 20-40, where it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a query would be used to retrieve the user data of the selected user after a password was entered);

means for receiving a first data value from the first database, the first data value being associated with the user for purposes of identifying the user and being displayed via a display field of the graphical user interface (see column 12, lines 18-40); and

means for receiving a second data value from a data source via a second input field of the graphical user interface, the second data value being associated with the user for purposes of electronic procurement authorization, the data source being different from the first database (see column 21, line 22 through column 22 line 25).

Williams et al. does not teach means for storing from the display field and the second input field of the graphical user interface the first data value and the second data value in a second database such that the first data value from the first database and the second data value

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from the data source are contained within the second database concurrently and persistently, the second database being different from the first database.

Lefkowitz teaches this see paragraph 0055, where the first data value (address information) and the second data value (credit card information) are stored in a merchant database. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid charged to the customers.

As to claim 31, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising means for validating the second data value (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0055).

As to claim 32, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the means for receiving the user identifier of the user includes a means for pre-qualifying a user (see Williams et al., column 20, line 60 through column 21, line 20).

As to claim 33, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising means for requesting user information (see Williams et al., column 19, lines 20-40).

As to claim 34, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising means for requesting purchasing card information (see Williams et al., column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25).

As to claim 35, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising means for requesting shipping information (see Williams et al., column 19, lines 20-40).

As to claim 36, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising means for validating the purchasing card information (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0055).

As to claim 37, Williams et al. teaches a method for database registration, the method comprising:

- a step for receiving a user identifier of a user via a first input field of a graphical user interface (see column 20, line 60 through column 21, line 20);

- a step for sending a query to a first database based at least in part on the user identifier (see column 19, lines 20-40, where it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a query would be used to retrieve the user data of the selected user after a password was entered);

- a step for receiving a first data value from the first database, the first data value being associated with the user for the purposes of identifying the user and being displayed via a display field of the graphical user interface (see column 12, lines 18-40); and

- a step for receiving a second data value from a data source via a second input field of the graphical user interface, the second data value being associated with the user for purposes of electronic procurement, the data source being different from the first database (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25).

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Williams et al. does not teach a step for storing from the display field and the second input field of the graphical user interface the first data value and the second data value in a second database such that the first data value from the first database and the second data value from the data source are contained within the second database concurrently and persistently, the second database being different from the first database.

Lefkowitz teaches this see paragraph 0055, where the first data value (address information) and the second data value (credit card information) are stored in a merchant database. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid charged to the customers.

As to claim 38, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the step for receiving the first data value from the first database includes a step for receiving a validated first data value from the first database (Williams et al., column 12, lines 18-40).

As to claim 39, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising:  
a step for receiving purchasing card information (see Williams et al., column 16, lines 44-64); and  
a step for validating purchasing card information (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0046).

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As to claim 40, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising a step for selectively sending data from the second database to a third database (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0055).

As to claim 41, Williams et al. teaches a computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions to be executed by a processor for database registration, the plurality, of instructions comprising instructions to:

- receive a user identifier of a user via a first input field of a graphical user interface (see column 20, line 60 through column 21, line 20);

- send a query to a first database based at least in part on the user identifier (see column 19, lines 20-40, where it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a query would be used to retrieve the user data of the selected user after a password was entered);

- receive a first data value of a first data field from the first database, the first data value being associated with the user for purposes of identifying the user and being displayed via a display field of the graphical user interface (see column 12, lines 18-40); and

- receive a second data value from a data source via a second input field of the graphical user interface, the second data value being associated with the user for purposes of electronic procurement authorization, the data source being different from the first database (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25).

Williams et al. does not teach store from the display field and the second input field of the graphical user interface the first data value and the second data value in a second database such that the first data value from the first database and the second data value from the data



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source are contained within the second database concurrently and persistently, the second database being different from the first database.

Lefkowitz teaches this see paragraph 0055, where the first data value (address information) and the second data value (credit card information) are stored in a merchant database. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid charged to the customers.

As to claim 42, Williams et al. as modified, teaches wherein the instructions to receive the first data value from the first database include instructions to receive a validated first data value from the first database (see Williams et al., column 12, lines 18-40).

As to claim 43, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising instructions to validate the second data value (see Lefkowitz, paragraph 0055).

As to claim 44, Williams et al. as modified, teaches further comprising instructions to selectively send data from the second database to the third database (see Lefkowitz paragraph 0055).

As to claim 45, Williams et al. teaches a system for database registration of an electronic procurement system, the system comprising:

a first server including database registration instructions, the first server associated with an electronic procurement purchasing organization, the electronic procurement purchasing organizations including a plurality of users (see column 20, line 60 through column 21, line 20);

a first database coupled to the first server, the first database to store at least in part a first data value associated with a user of the plurality of users for purposes of identifying each of the users, the first database associated with the electronic procurement purchasing organization (see figure 1B, reference number 158);

a computer coupled to the first server, the computer providing a graphical user interface to receive a second data value associated with the user via a second input field of the graphical user interface (see column 21, line 22 through column 22, line 25), the computer to receive the first data value from the first database and display the first data value via a display field of the graphical user interface in response to receiving a user ID via a first input field of the graphical user interface (see column 12, lines 18-40);

Williams et al. does not teach

(a) a second database coupled to the computer, the second database to receive the first data value and the second data value from the display field and second input field of the graphical user interface of the computer, the second database to store the first data value and the second data value such that the first data value from the first database and the second data value from the second data source are stored concurrently and persistently, the first database associated with the electronic procurement purchasing organization; and

(b) a third database coupled to the second database, the third database associated with an electronic procurement vendor.

Lefkowitz teaches (a) see paragraph 0046; and (b) see paragraph 0055. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Williams et al. to include the teachings of Lefkowitz because these teachings would allow the merchant to review orders and be sure that all orders were properly paid charged to the customers.

### *Response to Arguments*

5. Applicant's arguments filed 29 September 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. In response to Applicant's arguments that "Lefkowitz does not teach storing from the display field [information received from a first database] and the first and second input fields of the graphical user interface the user identification, the first data value and the second data value in a second database of the first information system such that the user identification, the first data value, and the second data value are stored within the second database concurrently and persistently, the second database being different from the first database", the arguments have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive. The applicant's arguments seem to be directed toward the fact that Lefkowitz seems to be missing a first database and therefore cannot send data from the first database to a display and then from a display to the second database. However the primary reference Williams et al. teaches a first database and retrieving data from it. This data is displayed to the user. Lefkowitz then teaches this same kind of data (user name, address, credit card information from a user interface or display to a second database. The

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applicant appears to be arguing the references individually; one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references.

See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

The examiner notes that in view of the current amendments to claim 1, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been withdrawn from claims 1-13. However, no indication of nor objection to allowable subject matter has been made because claims 1-13 now stand rejected on 35 U.S.C. §101 (see above).

### *Conclusion*

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob F. Betit whose telephone number is (571) 272-4075. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

jfb  
9 Dec 2005

  
**SAM RIMELL**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**